

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A rotary connector comprising

a first part comprising a stationary case;

a second part coupled to a first part and comprising a rotary case configured to rotate relative to said first part;

an electrical cable housed within the rotary connector; and

a viewing window configured to reveal a feature U-shaped bend of said electrical cable when the rotary connector is in a neutral position wherein said viewing window comprises:

a first through hole positioned at a predetermined position on said rotating case; and

a second through hole positioned at a predetermined position in said stationary case

such that the first and second through holes overlap to reveal an interior annular space of the connector that said electrical cable is housed within when the rotating case is rotated with respect to the stationary case, wherein said feature of the electrical cable comprises a u-shaped bend that occupies the overlapping area of the first and second through holes when said rotary connector is in said neutral position.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 3, wherein said rotating case and said stationary case have substantially the same axis of rotation and said first and second through holes have substantially the same radial position with respect to the axis.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The rotary connector of Claim [[2]] 1, further comprising an electrical junction configured to provide electrical connection between the electrical cable and an external unit.

Claim 6 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 5, wherein said electrical junction comprises pins.

Claim 7 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 5, wherein said electrical junction comprises wires.

Claim 8 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 5, wherein said electrical junction comprises a rotating junction coupled to said rotating case.

Claim 9 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 5, wherein said electrical junction comprises a stationary junction coupled to said stationary case.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The rotary connector of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said stationary case comprises mounting tabs configured to mount said rotary connector to an assembly.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The rotary connector of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said electrical cable comprises an electrical conductor embedded in an insulating material.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The rotary connector of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said electrical cable comprises an optical signal transmission line.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The rotary connector of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said electrical cable comprises a plurality of flexible flat cables.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The rotary connector of Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said stationary case comprises:

a lower flange and a stationary upper flange opposing said lower flange; and  
an outer cylinder wall connecting said lower and stationary upper flanges, said stationary upper flange having a stationary through hole positioned at a predetermined radial and angular positions.

Claim 15 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 14, wherein said rotating case comprises;

an inner cylinder shaft portion; and  
a rotating upper flange overlapping the stationary upper flange of said stationary case when said rotating case is rotationally coupled to said stationary case, said rotating upper flange having a rotating through hole that overlaps said stationary through hole when the rotating case is positioned at a predetermined position relative to said stationary case.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The rotary connector of Claim 15, wherein said inner cylinder shaft portion opposes said outer cylinder wall, and said stationary upper ~~stationary~~ flange opposes said lower flange to form an annular space within said connector when said rotating case is rotationally coupled to said stationary case.

Claim 17 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 16, wherein said electrical cable comprises a flexible flat cable having a first portion of its length wrapped around the inner cylinder shaft portion of the rotating case in a first direction, the flat cable then being turned back upon itself to form a U-shape so that a second portion flexible flat cable length is wound inside the outer cylinder wall of the stationary case in an opposite direction to the first direction.

Claim 18 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 17, wherein said first and second portions of said flexible flat cable have predetermined lengths that ensure that the U-shape bend of the flexible flat cable is visible within an overlapping area of the windows when the rotary connector is in said neutral position.

Claim 19 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 1, wherein said viewing window is configured to reveal a feature of said electrical cable only when the rotary connector is in a neutral position.

Claim 20 (Original): The rotary connector of Claim 1, wherein said rotary connector does not include an indication arrow for indicating said neutral position.

Claim 21 (Original): A steering wheel assembly comprising a rotary connector as claimed in any one of Claims 1-20.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a rotary connector, comprising:

providing first and second parts of the rotary connector that can be rotationally coupled to one another such that through holes on the first and second parts of the rotary connector overlap to reveal an interior space of the rotary connector;

providing a flexible cable that can be housed within the rotary connector when the first and second parts are rotationally coupled to one another; and

arranging the flexible cable in a predetermined arrangement within the rotationally coupled first and second parts such that a feature of the flexible cable is visible ~~from an exterior~~ through said through holes of the rotary connector when the first part is in a neutral position relative to the second part, wherein said arranging the flexible cable comprises arranging the flexible cable to form a U-shaped bend as said feature.

Claims 23-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A method of identifying a neutral position of a rotary connector, comprising:

rotating a first part of the connector relative to a second part of the connector such that through holes in the first and second part are substantially aligned to reveal an interior annular space of the rotary connector that is formed by the cooperative relationship of the first and second parts; and

positioning the first and second parts of the connector such that a ~~feature~~ U-shaped bend of an electrical cable housed in the interior annular space is visible through the substantially aligned through holes to indicate a neutral position of said rotary connector.